



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

November 16, 2015

Secretary Jonathan Steverson
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Blvd, MS 49
Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Secretary Steverson:

Subject: 2016 Priority Water Body List and Schedule

The South Florida Water Management District (District) is pleased to submit for your consideration the 2016 Priority Water Body List and Schedule for the establishment of Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) and Reservations as required by Section 373.042(2), Florida Statutes, which was approved by the Governing Board on November 12, 2015 (See enclosures).

The MFL Priority Water Body List and Schedule demonstrates our continuing commitment to evaluate new information for the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary to determine if any revisions of the MFL criteria are warranted. The determination for Caloosahatchee will occur upon completion and peer review of the technical documentation in 2016.

The water reservation for the Kissimmee River and Floodplain and Upper Chain of Lakes is needed to ensure that water will be available for the Kissimmee River, a regionally significant restoration project, which has been 50/50 cost shared by the SFWMD and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Rule adoption for this water reservation is anticipated by December 2016.

Overall, the District continues to fulfill its mission to protect our water resources. We look forward to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's review and approval of this year's Priority Water Body List. If you have any questions, please contact Terrie Bates, Water Resources Division Director at (561) 682-6952 or tbates@sfwmd.gov.

Sincerely,

Peter Antonacci
Executive Director

PA/dm
Enclosures

c: Drew Bartlett, DEP
Terrie Bates, SFWMD
Kathleen Greenwood, DEP

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Resolution No. 2015 - 1107

A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to authorize submission of the proposed 2016 Priority Water Body list and schedule for Minimum Flows and Levels and Water Reservations to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for review and approval pursuant to section 373.042(2), Florida Statutes; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, the South Florida Water Management District (District) is required by Section 373.042(2), Florida Statutes (F.S.), to submit an annual update of the Priority Water Body List for Minimum Flows and Levels and Water Reservations that reflects the District's water resource management priorities, the importance of the waters to the region, and the existence of, or potential for, significant harm to the water resources; and

WHEREAS, the water management districts are required to forward the Priority Water Body List and Schedule to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for its review and approval; and

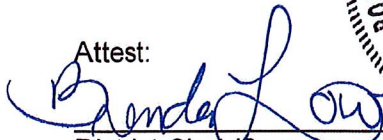
WHEREAS, the proposed 2016 Priority Water Body List and Schedule for Minimum Flows and Levels and Water Reservations considers the differing resource issues addressed by minimum flows and levels and water reservations based on staffing and technical resources to ensure successful completion of rulemaking; and

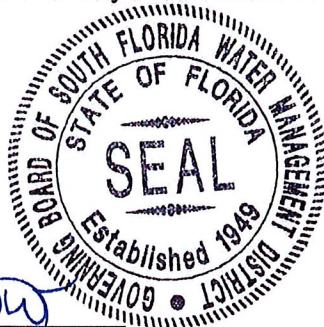
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT:

Section 1. The District's Governing Board hereby approves submission of the proposed 2016 Priority Water Body List and Schedule for Minimum Flows and Levels and Water Reservations to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for review and approval pursuant to Section 373.042(2), F.S.

Section 2. The proposed 2016 Priority Water Body List and Schedule for Minimum Flows and Levels and Water Reservations is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

PASSED and ADOPTED this 12th day of November 2015.

Attest:

District Clerk/Secretary



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT, BY ITS GOVERNING BOARD

By: 
Chairman

Legal form approved:

By: 
Office of Counsel

Print name:


Jennifer D. Brown

South Florida Water Management District 2016 Priority Water Body List and Schedule Minimum Flows and Levels and Reservations

Minimum Flows and Levels:

Caloosahatchee River – MFL Reevaluation

- Complete models and apply them to understand the water sources and their contribution to the Caloosahatchee Estuary through 2015
- Complete investigation of the effects of MFL flows on oysters, benthic macrofauna, zooplankton, and ichthyoplankton
- Apply hydrodynamic/salinity/regional/ecological models and hydrologic information to develop improved MFL criteria through 2016
- Complete technical analysis and its documentation in 2016
- Complete peer review in 2016
- Determine if revisions to the existing MFL Rule are needed
- Hold public workshops in 2016 and 2017
- Adopt any proposed revisions to MFL Rule

Reservations:

Kissimmee Basin

- Reservation water bodies include:
 - Lakes Myrtle–Preston–Joel
 - Lakes Hart–Mary Jane
 - East Lake Tohopekaliga
 - Lake Tohopekaliga
 - Alligator Chain of Lakes (Alligator, Brick, Lizzie, Coon, Center and Trout)
 - Lake Gentry
 - Headwaters Revitalization Lakes (Lakes Kissimmee, Cypress and Hatchineha)
 - Kissimmee River and Floodplain
- Peer review completed in 2009
- Complete technical analysis and the revised technical document in 2015
- Incorporate technical information into rulemaking process in 2016
- Hold additional public workshops in 2015 and 2016
- Adopt rule in 2016